

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN  
LEGION

**HON. PAUL C. BROWN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the nation's largest war-time veterans service organization, the American Legion, which was chartered by Congress in 1919 on this date in history. Since then, it has grown to include more than 2.5 million members in over 14,000 American Legion posts worldwide, and its influence is invaluable.

The American Legion supports a variety of programs that benefit the communities in my home state of Georgia and those around the world. As a Marine and retired officer in the Naval Reserves, I am deeply grateful for the Legion's commitment to mentoring youth, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and encouraging continued devotion to fellow service members, veterans, and their families. Therefore, it is my honor to applaud the great work of the American Legion.

Furthermore, it is my privilege to recognize the Wesley Lee Farley American Legion Post 583 and Auxiliary in Eatonton, Georgia. Incorporated in 1952, Post 583 was first comprised of World War II and Korean War veterans, who built the post from the ground up, supported by donated material from the Eatonton community and unending fundraisers by the future Unit 583 Auxiliary. Today, the post proudly presents to qualified students the "Fannie Pearl Farley Scholarship." A charter member, Mrs. Farley served as the 69th Department of Georgia President, which is the highest office in the American Legion Auxiliary, and today she is still an active member of the post.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I express my sincere respect and support for the American Legion, dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy, while working to make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans around the world.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
DEBBIE S. FRANK

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of this great institution and those who serve and work here to acknowledge and to express appreciation to one of our long-tenured House employees, Debbie Frank, who is retiring from the House following her twenty years of service as a Senior Employee Assistance Counselor with our Office of Employee Assistance (OEA).

Following the completion of her Master's Degree in Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania and the initiation of her career in New Jersey with the Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) at Cooper Medical Center and New Jersey Transit, Debbie joined the OEA staff in 1994, as the OEA and other non-legislative services transitioned from the Clerk

of the House to the newly created Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Throughout her career with the House and the CAO organization, Debbie has worked tirelessly with managers and employees, whether it is the House, Congressional Budget Office or the United States Capitol Police, she has assisted them in addressing the myriad of personal challenges, mental health and addiction problems, and other behavioral and work-life balance issues that potentially impact the performance and productivity of our workforce. Whether Debbie was providing the OEA's critical assessment, referral and follow-up services to an employee in crisis, consulting with a Member or Chief of Staff on strategies to manage an employee's return to work following an absence for addictions treatment, facilitating a Member's annual staff retreat, or conducting a training session for the general House workforce, Debbie consistently brought compassion, competence, organizational insight, institutional sensitivity, and practical solutions to her work. Over the years, she also became a strong advocate for a mindfulness approach to building personal resiliency in dealing with the stresses of an employee's work life and those of his or her personal life—an approach that I've studied, advocated and personally practiced for years.

During her tenure with the OEA and the House, Debbie managed a number of key initiatives for the OEA, including the House Health and Wellness Fair, the Drug-free Workplace training, and the OEA's Disaster Response capability. Since its inception in 1994, Debbie also served as the OEA's field placement supervisor for graduate level social work students interning with the OEA and learning the fundamentals of employee assistance programming and service delivery in the workplace.

In addition to her day-to-day work with the employees, managers, and Members routinely seek out the services and resources of the OEA to deal with the challenges presented when an employee's personal issues impact their performance or the effectiveness of the office, and Debbie has been on the front lines in providing support, assistance, guidance, and reassurance to the House community in the midst of some of the most troubling events of the past two decades. She was on-site in Oklahoma City working with House staffers following the Murrah Federal Building bombing in 1995. In 1998, she was part of the OEA team's response to the Capitol Police and House communities following the tragic fatal shooting of two Capitol Police officers in the Capitol Building. Following September 11th and the anthrax incident in October 2001, Debbie was also part of the CAO's communications effort, managed by the OEA and serving as the critical informational conduit to the House workforce throughout the six weeks that sections of the House campus were closed—keeping employees and families informed of the status of the remediation efforts and the staggered opening of offices and the availability of House services as sections of the House buildings were cleared for occupancy and resumption of operations. She served as the OEA's lead in working with the House response team following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. And she helped manage the OEA's immediate and ongoing response to the tragic shootings in Tucson in January 2011.

As Debbie departs the House and embarks on her retirement in Texas, I join the Chief Ad-

ministrative Officer, Ed Cassidy; the CAO's Chief Human Resource Officer, Jason Hite; and the entire OEA team—Bernard Beidel, Liz McBride-Chambers, Kristin Welsh-Simpson, and Margot Hawkins-Green—in wishing Debbie well and Godspeed. And I personally thank her on behalf of the many Members, employees and family members she has helped, assisted and supported over the past two decades. Well done, Debbie!

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 25TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE DONALD RIE-  
GLE COMMUNITY SERVICE  
AWARDS

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the Donald Riegle Community Service Awards. For the past 25 years the Flint Jewish Federation has utilized this event as a vehicle to recognize individuals in the Flint area who have displayed an exceptional commitment to community.

As Michigan's former senior United States Senator, Donald W. Riegle, Jr., retired after three terms in the U.S. Senate, and ten years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives. Throughout his federal legislative career, Senator Riegle served as a champion of Soviet Jewry. In addition, he co-sponsored major legislation pertaining to freedom of immigration issues and personally intervened with the leadership of the former Soviet Union on behalf of Jewish Refuseniks.

This year's award recipients, Debra Goldensteinman, Philip Shaltz and Emelle Taylor, have worked hard to make our community a better place. The proceeds from the event will provide funding for the necessary acculturation of social programs, as well as the continuation of services, such as transportation, interpreters, meal services and citizenship preparation for Genesee County residents.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Flint Jewish Federation for upholding the life, legacy and leadership of Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr. and applaud them on this milestone celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of September 15, 2014, a series of votes was held. Had I been present for these rollcall votes, I would have cast the following votes: Rollcall 497—I vote "yea."

CELEBRATING HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and